

Message Text

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ACTION CU-05

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STATE FOR CU/AF

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC, SHUM, CT
SUBJ: WARREN WEINSTEIN'S VISIT

SUMMARY: WEINSTEIN DISCUSSED PROPOSED COLLOQUIUM AND HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION WITH MINISTERS, LAWYERS, PROFESSORS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OFFICIALS. HE WAS WELL RECEIVED THROUGHOUT. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING HIS TWO-DAY VISIT TO CAE, WARREN WEINSTEIN WAS ABLE TO CALL SEPARATELY ON THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT, THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR AND THE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER. ALL EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PROPOSED COLLOQUIUM ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ALTHOUGH SOME WERE SKEPTICAL
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OF ITS LONG-RUN IMPACT. PRESIDENT OF SUPREME COURT URGED THAT INVITATION TO THE COLLOQUIUM BE SUBMITTED THROUGH HIM, AND MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR SUGGESTED SPECIFICALLY THE NAME OF ONE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE COURT, JOSEPH MANDE-DJAPOU.

2. WEINSTEIN MET AT A LUNCHEON ALL FIVE OF THE LAWYERS ACTIVELY PRACTICING IN THE CAE (TWO CENTRAL AFRICANS, TWO FRENCHMEN AND

ONE AMERICAN). HE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY AFTERWARDS FOR A ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION OF THE CAE LEGAL SYSTEM. HE ALSO HAD A LATE-AFTERNOON SESSION WITH FOUR PROFESSORS OF LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY (ALL FRENCH), AND SPOKE TO THE EMBASSY STAFF.

3. THE SEC-GEN OF THE ORGANIZATION COMMUNE AFRICAINE ET MAURITIENNE (OCAM), THE ASSOCIATION OF FRANCOPHONE AFRICAN STATES, RECEIVED WEINSTEIN FOR A LIVELY HOUR-LONG DISCUSSION AND INVITED HIM TO LUNCH WITH THE OCAM LEGAL ADVISER, THE UN RESIDENT REP AND THE LIBERIAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES. THE OCAM SECRETARY-GENERAL URGED THAT OCAM BE INVITED TO THE CONFERENCE.

4. COMMENT: WE WERE IMPRESSED BY THE WILLINGNESS OF CAE MINISTERS TO RECEIVE WEINSTEIN AND TO DISCUSS THE CONSTITUTIONAL/LEGAL SYSTE. THE VISIT HAS SERVED TO KEEP OUR INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS FRESH IN THEIR MINDS. WE CONCUR THAT INVITATION SHOULD BE SUBMITTED THROUGH THE SUPREME COURT. IF ADDITIONAL MONEY IS AVAILABLE, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO SEND ONE OF THE CAE LAWYERS AS WELL, ALTHOUGH THIS IS LESS IMPORTANT SINCE WE PROPOSE TO OFFER THEM IVP GRANTS ONE EACH THIS YEAR AND NEXT.

5. WE WOULD STRONGLY URGE INGLUSION OF AN OCAM REP IN THE COLLOQUIUM. ITS MEMBERSHIP IS LARGELY THE SAME AS THE LIKELY PARTICIPATION IN THE COLLOQUIUM, AND WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS IN GENERAL IMPORTANT THAT WE REACT POSITIVELY TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S INTEREST IN EXCHANGES WITH THE UNITED STATES. CU/AF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THIS QUESTION WITH THE SEC-GEN WHEN HE IS IN THE US ON AN IVP IN MAY.
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